

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-19 are presently pending in this application.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 1-11 and 13-19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over GB 2,102,661 (hereinafter "GB '661") in view of Gerein (U.S. Patent 5,855,245). However, Claim 12 was indicated as including allowable subject matter.

First, Applicant acknowledges with appreciation the indication that Claim 12 includes allowable subject matter. However, since Applicant believes that Claim 1 includes patentable subject matter, Claim 12 is presently maintained in its dependent form.

Before addressing the outstanding art rejection, a brief summary of Claim 1 according to the present invention is believed to be helpful. Claim 1 is directed to a connection device connecting a spray boom to a chassis of an agricultural sprayer, and the connection device includes a single quadrilateral arranged in a plane which is substantially vertical and substantially parallel to a longitudinal plane of said sprayer. By providing such a single quadrilateral, the spray boom is more rigidly connected to the chassis without being inclined, thereby eliminating, for example, the non-uniform distribution of the product caused by multiple parallelograms.¹

GB '661 discloses a connection device for linking a spray bar to a chassis of a carrier vehicle. Nevertheless, as stated in the Office Action, GB '661 fails to teach "a single quadrilateral arranged in a plane which is substantially vertical and substantially parallel to a

¹ See Specification, page 2, line 5, to page 3, line 18.

longitudinal plane of said sprayer” as recited in Claim 1. Therefore, the structure recited in Claim 1 is clearly distinguishable from GB '661.

Gerein discloses a floating hitch for an agricultural implement. However, it is respectfully submitted that Gerein does not teach “a single quadrilateral arranged in a plane which is substantially vertical and substantially parallel to a longitudinal plane of said sprayer” as recited in Claim 1. Specifically, according to Gerein, the floating hitch has the hitch 1 connected pivotally to the frame 2 of the agricultural implement by the hinge 15. The hitch 1 can be rotated around the hinge 15 by the ram 16, the barrel end 4 of the ram 16 is connected pivotally to the hitch 1 by the connection 6, the rod 5 of the ram 16 is pivotally connected to the floating link 8 by the connection 7, and in turn, the floating link 8 is connected pivotally to the frame 2 by the connection 9. The Gerein floating hitch also has the locking arm 10, one end of which is connected pivotally to the frame 2 by the connection 18 and the other end of which is connected to the hitch 1 by the slot 17 and pin 11. Contrary to the assertion in the Office Action, Gerein does not disclose a link via quadrilateral between the hitch 1 and the frame 2. A link via quadrilateral allows a forward/backward movement between the two elements, but the only movement possible between the hitch 1 and frame 2 of the Gerein device is the rotation around the hinge 15. The ram 16, floating link 8 and locking arm 10 serve only to move the hitch 1 and not to guide its movement. Furthermore, the ram 16 and locking arm 10 do not constitute a quadrilateral because the ram 16 is linked to the frame 2 by the floating link 8. Even assuming *arguendo* that the locking arm 10 and ram 16 form the link between the hitch 1 and the frame 2, there are five connections 11, 6, 7, 9, 18, resulting in a pentagon, not a quadrilateral. It is thus respectfully submitted that the structure recited in Claim 1 is believed to be clearly distinguishable from Gerein.

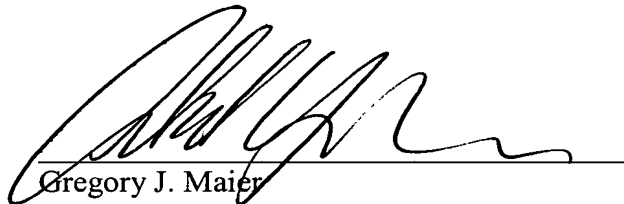
Because neither GB '661 nor Gerein discloses the single quadrilateral as recited in amended Claim 1, even the combined teachings of these cited references are not believed to render the structure recited in Claim 1 obvious.

For the foregoing reasons, Claim 1 is believed to be allowable. Furthermore, since Claims 2-19 ultimately depend from Claim 1, substantially the same arguments set forth above also apply to these dependent claims. Hence, Claims 2-19 are believed to be allowable as well.

In view of the discussions presented above, Applicant respectfully submits that the present application is believed to be in condition for allowance, and an early action favorable to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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